

REMARKS***Remaining Claims***

Claims 1, 7, 18, and 22 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. These amendments do not contain new matter and are fully supported by the specification. After these amendments are entered, thirty one (31) Claims (claims 1-31) are pending.

Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1, 6, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Miller. The rejection over these claims is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

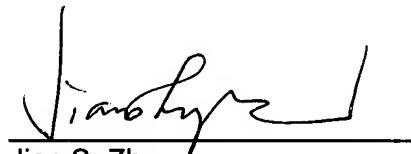
Applicants respectfully submit that Miller does not teach does not teach all of the limitations of claims 1, 6, and 18 as currently claimed. Miller teaches how to make a trifocal lens (Figure 6). This is clearly stated on col. 4, lines 50-51, "FIGS. 5 and 6 illustrate the formation of a trifocal contact lens." Miller's trifocal contact lens has a generally circular distance vision zone 21, a generally crescent-shaped intermediate distance zone 17 (col. 4, lines 51-58 and lines 66-67), and a generally crescent-shaped near vision zone 15 (the paragraph bridging col. 4 and col. 5). When the cited reference is considered in its entirety (related to biofocal or trifocal contact lenses), Miller does not teach nor suggest anything about a blending zone which is located between two optical zones and has a surface that ensures a smooth surface transition from the two optical zones and that allows the two optical zones to be designed independently from each other and optimally so that ghost images or blur from the first and second optical zones is minimized or eliminated. In addition, Miller does not teach nor suggest anything about an ophthalmic lens characterized by having minimal or no ghost images or blur when transitioning between the first and second optical zones. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as currently claimed is not anticipated by Miller. Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over claims 1, 6, and 18.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicant submits that the rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that all pending claims are now in conditions for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Robert Gorman, CIBA Vision, Patent Department, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2965.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 9, 2005

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